

Abstract

The present study was designed to examine parental influences on children's relationship beliefs and love styles. The study included 131 Chinese parent-child dyads (mean age 49.8 years for parents, and 20.7 years for children). We used questionnaires to measure the parenting styles and relationship beliefs of parents, and relationship beliefs, love styles, and relationship satisfaction of their children. Consistent with our expectation, path-analytic results revealed that parenting styles and parental beliefs were significantly associated with their children's relationship beliefs, which in turn were associated with children's love styles in romantic relationship. Few studies have examined parental influences on children's love-related constructs using such an intergenerational approach. Our results are expected to shed light on the conceptualization of how parents affect children's interpersonal relationships in general, and romantic relationships among Chinese young adults in particular.

